

land as an announcement of the whereabouts of the author. After ranging over the trees in the immediate neighborhood the titmouse returned to the rail-fence and there seemed to find much to its liking for in a short time its beak was crammed with moths and flies. Taking wing, it flew in the same direction as before, straight for the heavier part of the woods. Following rapidly after it, the nest was discovered in the dead and broken branch of a stately elm, some 50 or 60 feet from the ground. An old, abandoned woodpecker's cavity had been appropriated and filled, as far as could be ascertained through the glass, with dried grass, etc. It was utterly impossible to reach the nest without the aid of climbing-irons and of these none were at hand.

Although we waited about the vicinity of the nesting-tree for over half an hour the titmouse would not return but circled about among the surrounding trees, calling now in low whistles and then again in clear, defiant tones. Long after we had left the place we could still hear the notes. Only one bird was observed about the place and, judging from the clear coloration of the plumage and the frequent whistling, it would be safe to say that the one under observation was the male. Such being the case the female was either absent entirely from the nest or vicinity or was engaged with brooding and was being fed by her mate. The large size of the insects taken to the nest would point to the latter conclusion. Similar traits of character have been observed in the common Chickadee by Mr. N. A. Wood, and they would not be impossible in this species.—A. D. TINKER, *Ann Arbor, Mich.*

**Massachusetts Records.**—I have lately received for the Thoreau Museum of Natural History a female Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) taken by a farmer, Mr. Jacob Williams, ten miles northwest of Richmond, on November 28, 1906, and presented to this Museum by Messrs. D. P. & J. E. P. Morgan; a male American Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*), taken by Mr. William Francis in January, 1908, in the Hoar Woods, Concord, Mass.; and a male Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocorys alpestris praticola*), taken by Mr. F. MacDonald Barton on February 19, 1908, on the school grounds, out of a flock of eight or ten. It seems probable that the inland flocks of Shores Larks are for the most part of this species. Though no others out of this or other flocks common here have been shot, they appear through the glass to be *praticola*.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, Jr., *Concord, Mass.*

**Early Nesting Records from Washington State.**—The following personally taken records were made by me this spring in the vicinity of Tacoma, Pierce Co., Wash.

March 30th: Besides a large number of decoy nests, I found one nest of the Tule Wren containing two fresh eggs. On the same date I also found a nest of the Virginia Rail containing four eggs. The two nests were not fifty feet apart. When I went to collect these sets on April 6, I found two

more nests of Tule Wren containing eggs that were almost ready to hatch. These last two sets must have been complete on or before my previous visit.

My other early record is a nest and four eggs of the Killdeer taken April 14, that were almost one half incubated.

Of the above records it is probable that the wrens may not be greatly out of the general rule, but those of the Rail and the Killdeer I should consider most exceptional.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Wash.*

**Notes on Missouri Birds.**—On examining Mr. Widmann's 'A Preliminary List of Missouri Birds' I find I have notes on several birds not reported from Missouri. At his suggestion I send them to you for a place among the 'General Notes' in 'The Auk.'

November 16, 1899, I saw a White-winged Crossbill feeding under some evergreen trees in a cemetery in town. It allowed me to stand watching it for a long time.

On Dec. 3, 1903, I saw a female Pine Grosbeak in a red cedar in a yard in town. It seemed sluggish and did not fly though I approached it closely.

In 1904 I saw Carolina Wrens in March, April, May and June, and I think it was the spring of this year that one commenced building in a gourd hanging in a lilac bush about four feet from the ground and within a few feet of our dining room window. It worked industriously for three or four days during the last week of March and then disappeared, and the House Wrens afterwards took possession of the site. This spring a pair built over a door in an outhouse in the garden and this time I think they succeeded in raising their brood, though we saw nothing of them. We could not see into the nest and the birds did not alight near it, but the male would fly to a pile of boards about thirty feet away and sing as though he would fly into pieces, and then suddenly dart towards the nest and fly through the door so swiftly that he was almost invisible. The first of May we found the nest torn to pieces. We thought the House Wrens did it.

In the spring of 1907 I saw a European Goldfinch in a pasture where American Goldfinches flock in winter and breed in summer.—M. SUSAN JOHNSON, *La Grange, Mo.*

**Bird Notes from Southeastern Michigan.**—'Recent Ornithological Developments in Southeastern Michigan,' by Messrs. Swales and Taverner (Auk, XXIV, p. 135), was of especial interest to me owing to its local nature, but while present conditions are faithfully depicted prior knowledge is somewhat vague, and I submit the following as additional data.

**Larus delawarensis.** RING-BILLED GULL.—This gull is of regular occurrence here beyond all question. I first learned to identify it in the fall of 1890, but classed it distinct from the Herring Gull as early as 1886. The first examined were two birds shot by Mr. Rad C. Ouellette, November